

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About the Project

Q: What is the TheRide 2045 Long-Range Plan?

A: The Long-Range Plan, also called TheRide 2045, is a multiyear plan that develops a shared vision for public transit in the Greater Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area.

Q: What is included in TheRide 2045 Long-Range Plan?

A: TheRide 2045 provides a long-term vision for the future of transit in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area in the year 2045. It incorporates how population, employment and demand for transit is expected to change over a long period of time, and how best to handle those changes. Recommendations include significant changes to the transit network, building new infrastructure, using new technologies and introducing new services to support the community needs. The plan will be more specific in the near term and more general in the long term.

Q: How long will it take to finalize the long-range plan?

A: The long-range plan is scheduled to be finalized in the Summer of 2022.

Q: Why are you developing a plan that is so far into the future?

A: Any public transit project, like buying new buses, changing how we deliver service or building new infrastructure, needs large investments and long timelines to complete. By planning years ahead into the future, TheRide can make sure that every long-term decision it makes builds toward a single shared vision and uses limited resources in a cost-effective manner.

Q: How do you know how to plan 25 years into the future?

A: The future is always uncertain. Based on trends in transit demand and technologies, we can foresee some of the investments that we will need. When we start thinking about the new technologies that are just available today, we can start to reimagine how service, technology and popular opinion may fit together. The plan must be firm enough so TheRide can plan its budgets but be flexible enough to adapt to the evolving possibilities

Q: When did TheRide start working on the TheRide 2045 Long Range Plan?

A: We started working on TheRide 2045 Long Range Plan in fall of 2019. Planning was stalled due to the onset of the pandemic. Fall of 2021 TheRide restarted the planning by holding in person and virtual public engagement meetings to obtain citizen input.

Q: What input did TheRide receive during the public engagement held in fall of 2021?

A: TheRide heard from more than 1400 people during the public engagement sessions held in the fall of 2021. TheRide presented three scenarios for the public to provide their feedback. More than 70% percent of the people participating indicated that they desired transformational change of the transit network.

Q: What is in the Long-Range Plan recommendation?

A: TheRide 2045 recommends incorporating many community preferred projects. The plan reflects a transformational shift to the entire transit system. Our public and stakeholder engagement has helped us to determine which projects need to move forward and in what order.

Our recommendation is to implement a high frequency network with transit priority features that improves reliability, social equity, transportation related emissions, and accessibility for all community members.

The Long-Range Plan recommendation includes:

- Two bus rapid transit lines; one along Washtenaw Ave. and another that would travel from the northside of Ann Arbor to the Briarwood area.
- 15 minutes or better service on most routes throughout the service area
- 10 minute or better service with priority features on high-use corridors
- A minimum of 30-minute frequency service throughout the service area, 7-days per week
- Improvements to serve for people with disabilities and seniors
- Later weekend and weeknight service hours

To support the improved service levels, investment into infrastructure is needed. This includes

- Garage expansion
- Updates to the Blake Transit Center and Ypsilanti Transit Center
- New transit hubs
- Technology enhancements
- Bus stop amenities like benches, shelters, etc.

Q: How much ridership growth is projected with the recommended plan?

A: Ridership projected to more than double by 2045. The ridership increase is a result of growing population, increased use by existing riders, and new customers switched from other transportation modes such as driving.

Q: How much does this plan cost?

A: TheRide 2045 Long-Range Plan recommendation includes both operations and capital costs. The projects will be sequenced so TheRide steadily builds toward its 2045 vision without spending too much at one time. The capital projects will mostly come from external funding, while the operational costs will come from the local millage, state and federal grants and passenger fares. The total projected annual operating cost will be about \$90 million by 2045 and total capital cost is approximately \$651 million from 2023 to 2045.

Q: How will the plan be funded?

A: TheRide receives federal, state, and local funding to operate and build its service. Local funding is received through a millage rate on assessed property values. TheRide 2045 is a long-range plan, that will guide which investments to make and when. By planning longer term, we are able to distribute the local tax needs over time.

About Public Engagement

Q: How do I get involved?

A: Public engagement is being held throughout the course of TheRide 2045 Long-Range Plan. Updates are on the project website (<https://www.theride.org/about/projects/theride-2045>).

TheRide is accepting feedback March 14 – April 15, 2022.

Q: How can I get updated on the plan progress?

A: You can get the most up-to-date information on the plan progress by signing up for email updates on the project website (<https://www.theride.org/about/projects/theride-2045>).

Q: How do I provide feedback on the Long-Range Plan?

A: Any member of the public is encouraged to attend and share ideas at public meetings, pop-up sessions, complete online surveys and use the project comment form at TheRide.org.

- Project website: <https://www.theride.org/about/projects/theride-2045>
- Email: 2045@TheRide.org
- Call: 734-794-1882

Mail: Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority
 c/o TheRide 2045
 2700 S. Industrial Highway
 Ann Arbor, MI 28104

Q: Are you going to have public meetings?

A: Public engagement is being held throughout the course of TheRide 2045 Long-Range Plan. Updates are on the project website (<https://www.theride.org/about/projects/theride-2045>).

TheRide is hosting virtual and public meetings:

TheRide is hosting both virtual and in person meetings* in March and April 2022.

Virtual public engagement meetings will be conducted through Zoom at the following times:

Date	Time
March 29	7pm-8pm
March 31	12pm-1pm
April 6	12pm-1pm
April 7	7pm-8pm

In person meetings* (drop-in sessions) will be held at the following times and locations::

Date	Time	Location
March 23	12pm-6pm	Ypsilanti Transit Center
March 24	12pm-6pm	Blake Transit Center
April 5	12pm-3pm	Ypsilanti District Library – Whittaker Rd.

*In-person meetings/drop-ins are subject to COVID-19 safety protocols and are subject to change.

Q: How can the public learn more?

A: There are several opportunities to learn more about TheRide2045:

- Participate in public engagement sessions
- Visit the project website (<https://www.theride.org/about/projects/theride-2045>)

You can get the most up-to-date information on the plan progress by signing up for email updates on the project website (<https://www.theride.org/about/projects/theride-2045>).

If you have any further questions about the long-range plan, please feel free to contact us as at:

- Project website: <https://www.theride.org/about/projects/theride-2045>
- Email: 2045@TheRide.org
- Call: 734-794-1882
- Mail: Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority
c/o TheRide 2045
2700 Industrial Highway
2701 Ann Arbor, MI 28104

Q: After the public input, what are the next steps?

A: After TheRide receives all of the community’s comments on the draft Long-Range Plan, TheRide will use feedback to further refine the plan into final recommendations for the board to adopt in the summer of 2022.

About the Public Advisory Group

Q: What does the Public Advisory Group do?

A: The Public Advisory Group is a volunteer focus group made up of 12 members of the public that have an interest in the long-term well-being of TheRide. PAG members were selected from more than 80 applications to match the demographics of the service area and TheRide’s customers as closely as possible. This includes race, geographic area, age, gender, employment, and other characteristics to ensure a diverse and representative group of customers. Members provide on-going input for development of TheRide 2045 Long-Range Plan to ensure it meets the community’s and customers’ vision for transit. Members attend regular workshops throughout the process to give their feedback on the plan as it develops.